

A1 Cont.

Protocols, United States Patent Number 09/228,913 entitled *Cost Calculation in Load Balancing Switch Protocols*, United States Patent Number 09/228,918 entitled *MAC Address Learning and Propagation in Load Balancing Switch Protocols*, United States Patent Number 09/228,992 entitled *Path Recovery on Failure in Load Balancing Switch Protocols*, and United States Patent Number 09/228,169 entitled *Discovery of Unknown MAC Addresses Using Load Balancing Switch Protocols*, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference.--

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 137, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2

--Figure 31 illustrates a situation where a non-load balance device 3106 interconnects multiple load balance domains 3100, 3102, and 3104. The load balance domains 3100, 3102, and 3104 includes switches 3110-3114, switches 3120-3124, and switches 3130-3134, respectively. From the switches' point of view this appears much like the case of a non-load balance device connecting multiple ports in the same load balancing domain.--

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 11 as shown below:

- A3*
1. (Amended) A method operable within a network switch for managing a broadcast tree, said method comprising the steps of:
 - constructing a pruned broadcast tree by
 - propagation of dynamic cost information packets; and